

PENSIONER
MEMBER



pensionSMART

For more information, please visit www.wmpfonline.com



Welcome to your 2023 Pensioner Member PensionSmart Newsletter

2023/2024 Pension Payment Dates

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| • 25 April 2023 | • 25 Oct 2023 |
| • 25 May 2023 | • 24 Nov 2023 |
| • 23 June 2023 | • 15 Dec 2023 |
| • 25 July 2023 | • 25 Jan 2024 |
| • 25 Aug 2023 | • 23 Feb 2024 |
| • 25 Sept 2023 | • 25 Mar 2024 |

CPI is a government index that ensures your pension keeps up with inflation



As the cost of living increases, so does your pension

Your pension is increasing – 10.1%

April is the time of year when your local government pension is adjusted to ensure it maintains its value against increases in the cost of living, and we are pleased to announce that from the 10 April 2023 pensions will increase by 10.1% in line with the consumer prices index (CPI).

For more information on how the increase will be applied or if you have been receiving your pension for less than a year, please visit www.wmpfonline.com/increase

If your pension payment is on a monthly basis, we will send a payslip when there is a variance of £10 in your net payment and every April. Payslips are available via the Fund's secure online 'My Pensions Portal'

<https://portal2.wmpfonline.com/>

Quarterly pension payments are paid in March, June, September and December.

Yearly payments are paid each March. If you are paid quarterly or yearly, you will continue to receive a payslip which is also available online every time you are paid.

Please view our short video which explains pensions increase in more detail at www.wmpfonline.com/increase

Please remember that the 10.1% increase is payable from the 10 April 2023, therefore your April payslip will have the first 9 days of April (1 April 2023 – 9 April 2023) payable at your current rate, and then the remainder of the month (10 April 2023 – 30 April 2023) will receive the 10.1% increase. You will receive the full increase of 10.1% for the whole month in May 2023. However, please note that your pension can be made up of different elements which have different method of increases, also if you have retired in the last year, the increase will be pro-rated.

Assistance with the rising cost of living

I think it is fair to say that we all have noticed the impact of rising costs, whether it be at the supermarket while doing the weekly shop, or increasing energy bills.

It can be challenging to make your money stretch further while trying to maintain a certain standard of living. This can lead to people feeling vulnerable, anxious and in a situation which can quickly become overwhelming.

The cost-of-living crisis is a national concern, and the Government has put certain support in place to try and help you with:

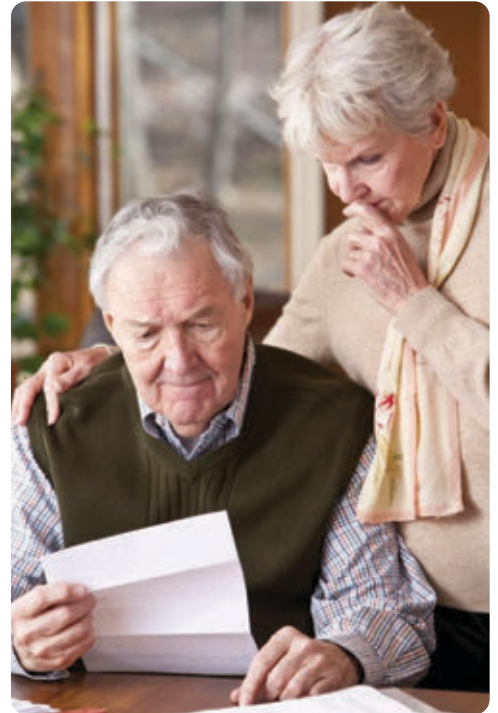
- support with your housing costs;
- support with your bills;

- Support coping with disabilities;
- or just generally finding things difficult and need someone to talk to.

For more information about this support, please visit www.gov.uk/cost-of-living.

On a local level, you can visit www.gov.uk/cost-living-help-local-council where you may be able to get help with essential costs from your local council. This is sometimes known as 'the Household Support Fund'. This could help if you're struggling to afford things like:

- energy and water bills;
- food; and
- essential items



Other national organisations are also providing a host of support to sharing tips from cutting back costs and making income go further to highlighting scams.



Tel: 0800 011 3797



Tel: 0800 055 6112



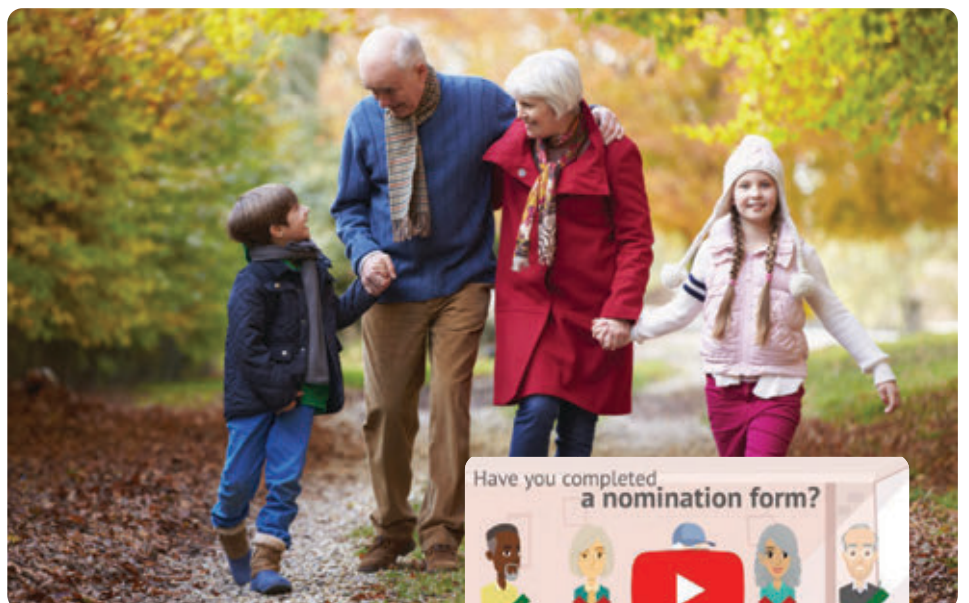
Tel: 0800 319 6789

Are your nominated beneficiaries up to date?

If you were to pass away after drawing your LGPS pension and before reaching age 75, a death grant may be payable.

Generally speaking, the death grant is equal to ten times (or five times if you left the LGPS before 1 April 2008) the pension less the amount already paid.

To check your death grant will be paid to the correct person or if you need to update your nomination form, please log onto Pensions Portal at <https://portal2.wmpfonline.com/>



For more information about death grants, why not view our short video at www.wmpfonline.com/deathinretirement

P60 End of Year Certificate

Pensioner's National Insurance Number		HM Revenue and Customs	Tax Year to 5 April
0565/WY05			2022
Pensioner's Surname (IN BLOCK CAPITALS) First Name		Employer's Name and Address	
West Midlands Pension Fund		PO Box 3948	
Pensioner's Payout Number		Wolverhampton	
WV1 3DP			
Pension Employment(s)		Pension Paid by Us*	
Pay	Tax Deducted	Pay	Tax Deducted
£	£	£	£
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
Total for Year		Total Tax Code	
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Changing your bank details?

When changing your bank account details using the Pensions Portal, please be aware that changes made during the month may not take effect until the following month due to the timing of running the payrolls.

If you have informed the Fund by using your payslip or in writing, please do not close your old account until you have received confirmation from the Fund that the change has been made.

Where a change of bank notification is received direct from the banking industry, the Fund will no longer issue paper notifications of these changes. All changes should have been instructed by our members using the Current Account Switch Guarantee Service and therefore you are aware of the change or it may be an internal change by your bank which does not affect your individual account.



Returned payments

If payments are returned from your bank, your pension will be suspended until we can obtain correct and up to date banking details.

You can update your bank details on your Pensions Portal account at <https://portal2.wmpfonline.com/> or by writing to the Fund at West Midlands Pension Fund, P.O.Box 3948, Wolverhampton, WV1 1XP.

Overseas accounts

If you require your pension to be paid overseas, please ensure that you complete the mandate with all the details required, as our overseas provider will reject payments if they are not set up correctly.

Please inform us of your change of bank as soon as possible to prevent any delays in you receiving your pension. Mandates can be downloaded at www.wmpfonline.com/overseasbank

Alternatively, you can contact us for a form.



National Fraud Initiative

The Fund participates in the Cabinet Office's anti-fraud initiative, known as the National Fraud Initiative. For this initiative, the Fund provide details of pensioners and beneficiaries so that they can be compared to information provided by other public bodies.

This will ensure that no pensions are being paid to persons who are deceased or no longer entitled, and that occupational pension income

is being declared when housing benefit is applied for.

The details of any local government pensioners who have taken up re-employment are also reported; therefore, it is important that you inform the Fund of any re-employment in local government.

The Fund may share information provided to us with other bodies responsible for auditing or

administering public funds in order to prevent and detect fraud.



Tea & Teach

Tea & Teach is an opportunity for pensioner members to come along and have a cup of tea or coffee and chat with Fund officers about their pension.

In summer last year the Fund rolled out tea & teach sessions across the whole of the West Midlands and we are pleased to report that these events were a success! Lots of you came and joined us for a tea/coffee and biscuits and had a chat with us about your pension-related questions.

We were also joined by a representative from Dementia Friends who was on-hand to provide support and sign posting for assistance and support if you or anyone you know is living with dementia or Alzheimer's.

These are some of the comments we received last year.

These events are very worthwhile. They help people attain a better understanding of pension-related issues.

Excellent explanation – easy to understand – very pleased with all the information I have received. Thanks again for all your help.

Well worth the visit, would recommend to anyone.

Helpful staff – nice greeting on entry. Put my mind at ease. Helpful information

Extremely helpful – very friendly and welcoming. All queries answered.

Most useful and accessible. Thank you.

We will be back on the road again this summer and will be in contact with you with the dates and venues. We hope to see you there!



McCloud update



In previous updates we provided information around the McCloud ruling and provided links to further information.

The Government continues to consider exactly what changes need to be made to remove the discrimination. We are waiting on the final regulations so at this stage no further information is available.

The Fund continue to liaise with employers to ensure we have the key information to enable impacted members to be identified and once the regulations have been received we will be working towards the implementation timescales.

If you qualify for protection it will apply automatically – you do not need to make a claim or contact us. We will contact you when the government puts the regulations in place.

For more information, see the frequently asked questions on the national [LGPS website](#).

Pensioner Engagement Forum



The Fund has a Pensioner Engagement Forum which meets annually to evaluate the services we offer to pension members, and to enhance the experience a member has when transitioning from work to retirement.

In previous years, we have reviewed the different methods of communication we have with pensioners and discussed new initiatives and improvements which have been made. The group has shaped the way in which we communicate with members and also plays a key role in initiatives such as the Tea & Teach events which is one of our new engagement channels to meet face-to-face with pensioner members.

The forum met in October last year and discussed:

- Providing signposting support for people living with dementia
- Review of the new Tea & Teach events which the Fund launched
- Gaining feedback on the Pensions Portal and the Fund's website.
- Reviewed the contents of this newsletter
- Where members go for advice

The next forum to take place on **Wednesday 25 October 2023** at our new offices in 19 in Wolverhampton.

We would like the opportunity to gather your thoughts on a variety of subjects, and would welcome you to be involved in this event. The event will run for the morning and close midday and we hope you can stay with us for some lunch which will be provided.

If you are interested in attending, please email us at wmpfevents@wolverhampton.gov.uk and we will confirm your attendance.

Responsible investment

The Fund continues to focus on implementing and developing its approach to investing responsibly across its investment strategy.

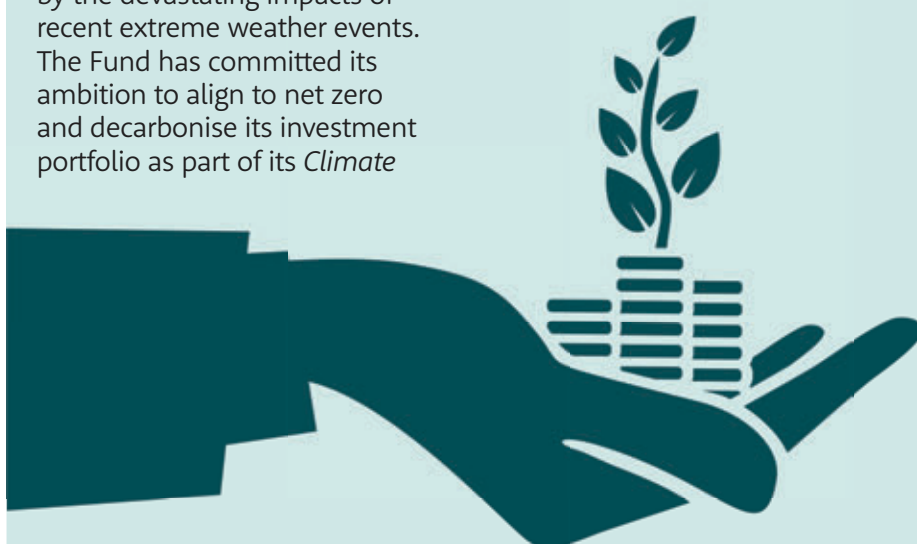
Climate change is one of the Fund's four listed engagement themes and continues to be an area of significant importance, highlighted by the devastating impacts of recent extreme weather events. The Fund has committed its ambition to align to net zero and decarbonise its investment portfolio as part of its *Climate*

Change Framework and Strategy and was pleased to announce in the Fund's annual *Climate-related Financial Disclosure* report a 27% reduction in carbon emissions between 31 December 2019 and 31 December 2021 – equivalent to 46,515 cars being removed from the road for one year!

We are delighted to share that the Fund has been recognised for the second year running as a signatory to the 2020 UK Stewardship Code, highlighting the Fund's commitment to responsible investing and effective stewardship of its assets. The full *Annual Stewardship Report* can be found on our website.



The Fund is currently developing a responsible investment member survey to understand your views on what is an ever-increasingly important topic. We will provide more details in due course, so please keep an eye out for further communications and information on how to participate in the survey.



Spring

WORDSEARCH

Successfully complete and return the wordsearch below and you will be entered into a prize draw with a chance to win a high street gift voucher of £25.

P	S	M	R	A	B	B	I	T	F	B	A	U	K
J	A	A	T	A	P	R	I	L	F	L	E	R	Z
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K	S	L	Q	P	B	B	L	O	S	S	O	M	W

Below is a list of words associated with Spring. See how many you can find. The words can go up, down, diagonally or backwards.

April
Rain
Crocus
Grass
Umbrella
Spring
Rabbit
Butterfly
Blossom
Season
Green
Rainbow
Robin
Sun
Bud
Melt

To enter into the prize draw to win a £25 high street gift voucher, please provide your name and contact number along with your completed crossword and send it to **West Midlands Pension Fund, PO Box 3948, Wolverhampton, WV1 1XP**, or email it to **wmpfactivemailings@wolverhampton.gov.uk**

Deadline for all entries is the 30 May 2023.

Full name: _____

Contact number: _____

Email address: _____



Have you moved address?

Please ensure that you inform us of your new address as soon as possible, as any returned post received by the Fund will result in the suspension of your pension payments until we have been informed of your new address.

You can update your address on your Pensions Portal account [//portal2.wmpfonline.com/](https://portal2.wmpfonline.com/) or by writing to the Fund at West Midlands Pension Fund, P.O.Box 3948, Wolverhampton, WV1 1XP.



Annual life certification - overseas members

The Fund undertakes an annual certification process commencing in the autumn of each year, typically October, for our overseas pensioners in partnership with an organisation called Target. Target is a third-party organisation who trace and verify scheme members on our behalf, helping to ensure pension scheme data is correct and up to date.

2020 was the first year of us undertaking this arrangement with Target, which has enabled us to engage with an increased number of members and also enhance the opportunities for you to engage with us on this process electronically. As part of this process, you will receive a letter or email from Target, asking you to verify your details which can be done either by traditional postal method or via the app **mypensionID**

To ensure we can monitor responses and make any amendments to our records, you will be given a timeframe in which to respond. Where a member doesn't respond to the annual certification request, and they have not contacted Target to advise them of an issue regarding meeting the timescales

for response then the pension will be suspended until we can verify the scheme member.



This is to ensure all pension payments are accurate, please be assured we will not suspend your pension without reasonable justification.



Please look out for an email or letter from Target with their logo on it.



Please be assured that our partnership with Target is fully compliant with the latest data protection legislation, and you can access more information on how we use member data at www.wmpfonline.com/privacynotice

If you would like more information on Target, please feel free to engage via the telephone on +44 (0)1243 608 635 or via their webchat at www.mypensionID.co.uk

Alternatively, more information can be found at www.wmpfonline.com/target



<https://portal2.wmpfonline.com/>



www.wmpfonline.com



www.wmpfonline.com/contactus



0300 111 1665

Be Pension Smart!

and take control of your pension today